**- Approved -**

**CONNECTICUT COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES**

**Regular Council Meeting Minutes**

**Tuesday, January 10, 2023, 10:03 a.m. – 12:25 p.m.**

**(Online via Microsoft Teams)**

The 241st meeting of the CT Council on Developmental Disabilities was held on Tuesday, January 10, 2023, from 10:03 a.m. to 12:25 p.m. on Microsoft Teams.

**Presiding:**  Doris Maldonado Mendez, Chair

**Recorder of Minutes:**  Donna Devin, Program Assistant

**Members Present:**  Emily Ball, Michelle Baughman, Chuck Bergamo, April Burke, Andy Cirioli, Kevin Daly, Lynn Frith, Karen Healy, James Hexter, Vice Chair; Shannon Jacovino, Bryan Klimkiewicz, Kaitlynn Ramos, Graziela do Carmo Reis, Kathie Strout, Jennifer Switalski, Fran Traceski, Tara Viens, James Welsh

**Members Absent:**  Antonia Edwards, Michael Finley, Damaris Santos, Louis St. Felix,

**Staff:**  Walter Glomb, Director

1. **Call to Order:**  With a quorum present, Doris Maldonado Mendez, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.
2. **Approval of Agenda:** Doris Maldonado Mendez, Chair, asked for a motion to approve the agenda. April Burke motioned to approve the agenda. Andy Cirioli seconded the motion. The agenda was approved.

1. **Approval of Minutes from November 1, 2022 Council Meeting:**  Fran Traceski motioned to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by James Hexter, Vice Chair. The minutes were approved.
2. **Comments by the Chair:**  Doris Maldonado Mendez, Chair, is looking forward to Council members learning about the intentional work the Legislative Policy and Planning (LPP); and the Advocacy, Public Information & Education (APIE) Committee have invested in the past few months. All of the Council’s Committees are up and running with very committed members hard at work.

Doris’ resolution about future Council meetings is to engage in member centered celebration. She is recognizing the birthdays and anniversaries, events, and notable mentions of Council members. She asked to be informed of them by email to either her or the Council’s program assistant, so she can include them in her welcome to the Council.

Doris mentioned the Spanish translation for the word “day” is “dia”. From this word she created the acronym “DEIA”, which stands for Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Access. She would like members to share their stories in 3 minutes or less about testimony they made before the State Legislature, an experience or memory related to diversity, equity, inclusion, or access, their personal or professional experiences as they relate to DEIA, the communities we service, our peers, health, access, inclusion, all our varied parts, and every part of our DEIA.

Karen Healy spoke about her mental health history and said she’s done a lot of testifying and speaks up for people who cannot advocate for themselves. During last year’s budget hearings, she gave 8 testimonies pertaining to mental health, Medicaid and Whiting Forensics. The Hartford Courant and the Connecticut Mirror mentioned her in articles, and she was featured in a mini-series on mental health. She explained when she testifies, it helps with her recovery to share her life experiences. She pointed out there are people who cannot speak any English, but don’t have enough money for an interpreter.

Doris thanked Karen for her comments and said all of her experiences and advocacy work is what secured her a place on the Council and they are very lucky to have her serving on it.

Doris encouraged the young adult members of the Council to share any updates from their stakeholder groups. She said ‘We should celebrate and educate one another inclusively throughout our life-course.’

1. **Report from the Council Executive Director on State Plan Activities for Fiscal Year 2022:** Walter Glomb, Council Executive Director, reported the Council has more than 20 projects in play! He talked about some of the particularly notable ones. The Council was approached late last year by the Department of Developmental Disabilities (DDS), because they will be spending some of their American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds on another assisted technology conference. They asked the Connecticut Tech Act Project (CTTAP) at the Department of Aging and Disability Services (ADS), and the Council on DD to participate with them in the conference.

The Yale University Program for Recovery & Community Health grant was singled out for their great work on the reporting of performance measures, statistics, and feedback information. Walt said the report submitted by Graziela do Carmo Reis was outstanding!

Futures has done terrific work and are continuing with their micro-enterprises. Walt wanted to share the implications of the work done by the Council. Futures is a perfect example of how a grantee can become sustainable and find ongoing funding sources. He really wants the Council to keep investing their money in projects that can eventually stand on their own and become sustainable. Some of the Futures’ businesses are so successful, they’re running into issues that need to be resolved. New waters are being tested in labor law and in eligibility criteria.

People First has had some difficult times over the past year. They still don’t have an advisor and they lost their treasurer. Walt has been working with Win Evarts at the Arc of CT to come up with a new organizational plan for them.

The Council is working with Connecticut Public, Media for the Curious (formerly Connecticut Public Radio) to air six interviews with six individuals. Walt is in talks with potential interviewees. Along with the interviews, the Council is receiving some advertising on public radio that the Advocacy, Public Information and Education (APIE) Committee can take advantage of.

Walt met with Claudio Gualtieri, Senior Policy Advisor at the State Office of Policy and Management (OPM). He is very eager to work with the Council.

Ellen Andrews, Executive Director of the Connecticut Health Policy Project, Inc., has recommended a speakers series and compiled data to educate healthcare professionals about accommodations for people with developmental disabilities. Walt and she had a meeting with Senator Derek Slap to engage the Legislature. Senator Slap recommended a collaboration with the Arc CT and the IDD Caucus to create a task force or type of forum at the Legislature, where healthcare executives and administrators could speak and answer questions about how they accommodate or fail to accommodate people with developmental disabilities.

The Council’s Community of Practice on Aging and Disability Services will be holding their 5th bi-monthly meeting. Jennifer Switalski from the State Unit on Aging will be presenting.

1. **Report by the Executive Director on the Fiscal Year 2022 Council Budget:** The Council’s Disability Policy Specialist is on medical leave, budget is on track and staff continues to look for opportunities to save money and cut back on costs whenever possible.
2. **Discussion of the Role of the Council Executive Committee:** The Council’s Executive Committee has full power and authority over the affairs of the Council between regular meetings of the Council. It has been decided the Executive Committee will meet regularly between regular Council meetings and whenever matters arise needing special attention.
3. **Reminder About FOIA Meeting Notice Requirements:** Walter Glomb, Council Executive Director, reminded the Council when they hold a hybrid meeting, the meeting time, meeting link and meeting agenda must be posted 48 hours in advance. This procedure is different from the in-person meetings of the past, which required only 24 hours advanced notice.
4. **Discussion of Council Statement About Medicaid Payments to Guardians:** Chuck Bergamo spoke about a personal project he’s been working on for years. Through all of his research and queries, he discovered a way for a legal guardian to get paid for rendering services under the 1915(c) Medicaid Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Waiver program. The State of Connecticut has an exception under which they will pay a legal guardian for certain services that they provide to the person with a disability. It is a complicated process and involves a special committee that decides on a case by case basis if there are special circumstances that qualify a legal guardian to receive payment.

However, the federal rule is if a child is under 18, a legal guardian must meet strict requirements of having a special skill set to render nursing care to the child. Currently, many states are considering expanding payments to legal guardians.

Chuck created a memo on the topic. His goal is to clarify the criteria and get a sense of the Council behind this endeavor, especially so that legal guardians who are parents can get paid for their services also.

Walter Glomb, Council Executive Director, asked the Council to agree to a process that would enable a Council member to conduct research and create a simple one page FAQ sheet that highlights their point. It should be brought to the Council for their review, after which there would be a formal Council vote, either by the full Council or the Executive Committee. This would allow the white paper to go forth as an official Council position, and allow any Council member to speak to that issue on behalf of the Council.

1. **Reports by Council Committees:** Tara Viens, Chair of the Advocacy, Public Information, and Education Committee, held a meeting to discuss the goals of the newly formed Committee. They are looking for additional members to join the group. Topics they discussed were social media, outreach to potential future grantees, and creating an impact report for the end of the year to summarize data that the Council received from their grantees.

Andy Cirioli, Chair of the Legislative Policy and Planning Committee, reviewed the Committee’s Legislative agenda and edited it during the meeting to reflect Council suggestions. Andy Cirioli, Committee Chair made a motion to adopt the 2023 Legislative agenda. April Burke seconded the motion. The agenda was approved.
2. **Adjournment:** Doris Maldonado Mendez, Council Chair asked for a motion for adjournment. Andy Cirioli made a motion for adjournment. James Hexter, Council Vice Chair, seconded the motion. The meeting concluded at 12:25 p.m. The next Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 14, 2023, online via MS Teams.